

PROMOTIONS: 85 picked for tech, 59 for master

Master sergeant selectees:

377th Air Base Wing

Terry L. Mest, inbound

377th Mission Support Group

Therman A. I. Franks

377th Mission Support Squadron

Charles L. McKenzie
Lisa A. Tolson, inbound

377th Medical Support Squadron

Gregg S. Hayes

377th Medical Operations Squadron

Raymond G. Thompson, inbound

377th Security Forces Squadron

Mark J. Aldridge
Richard A. Hadsell
Adam C. Rawding

377th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Richard J. Hoover
Eric M. Bleckner, inbound

377th Contracting Squadron

Elizabeth V. Wills

898th Munitions Squadron

Bradley J. Olson

896th Munitions Squadron

Ronald A. Bolton
Julio J. Perez

58th Special Operations Wing

Richard M. Sherman
Rhett L. Wicketts, inbound

512th Rescue Squadron

Kenneth D. Clarke, inbound
Kristopher Angone
Mark E. Nowotny

550th Special Operations Squadron

Mitchel W. Bayless
William D. Kaufman

58th Operations Support Squadron

Larry E. Ebaugh, inbound

58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

John P. McGoldrick
John A. Sliz
Eric D. Winkleblack, inbound

58th Maintenance Squadron

Gary L. Barkman
Allan M. Brandt
Joseph K. Herrera
Gregory Hollinger
Harrison W. Joseph
Francis P. O'Neil
Norman H. Schwantes
Greg J. Sommer

58th Maintenance Group

Courtney C. Bloom
Dennis G. Dean
Van C. Morrison, inbound

58th Maintenance Ops Squadron

Anthony Bickerton
Kevin E. Bonner
Lisa Y. Buck, inbound
Christopher Mosier
Robert K. Scherrer
Gina M. Turner, inbound

58th Training Squadron

John S. Jackson
Daniel L. Morgan
Matthew Nicholson

373rd Training Squadron

Robert J. Thurber

342nd Training Squadron

Darrell R. Mayers

Air Force Inspection Agency

Richard D. Cretice

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

Paul G. Fairbanks
Robert R. Koster
Mark A. Pikel
James L. Williams Jr.

412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Eric R. Brown
Todd M. Wells

Defense Threat Reduction Agency

Hector F. Andrade

National Assessment Group

Jeffrey A. King
Donna M. Margwarth

Air Force Research Laboratory

Steven M. Tuss

Technical sergeant selectees:

377th Air Base Wing

Robert J. Corson
Kerry L. Gardner Jr.
David L. Moore III
Paul L. Terrell
David E. Westfelt

377th Mission Support Squadron

Brian A. Cyr

377 Logistics Readiness Squadron

Amy K. Bobbitt
Sharon A. Christian
Ben A. David
Johannes F. Eg
Joshua L. McDaniel
Michael E. Peacock

377th Medical Operations Squadron

Jesse J. Laird
Michelle McCormick

377th Medical Support Squadron

Dwayne W. Hill
Irene B. McGuire
David T. Tolson, inbound

377th Security Forces Squadron

Anthony E. Fleming
Ritchie L. Johnson
Jeffrey J. Matteson
Kenneth R. Sheldon
Micah D. Snyder

898th Munitions Squadron

Gina C. M. Beenau
Paul J. Hart
Dennis Karner Jr.
Michael F. Sterling
Brian S. Wance

896th Munitions Squadron

Michael L. Judd

58th Operations Group

Joshua M. Story
Maria A. Hill, inbound

58th Operations Support Squadron

Christopher Richards
Steven A. Smith
Michael D. Truax

58th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Keith V. Hurst
Michael T. Stober

58th Training Squadron

Jeri L. Anderson

58th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Gerald L. Bell Jr.
Dennis A. Bracy
Ted Carlsen
Eric L. Donnell
Brian C. Hogan
David P. B. Justice
Margaret Livingston
Paul M. Schneider
James R. Shrum
Jeffrey Beugelsdyk, inbound

58th Maintenance Squadron

Dale G. Baker
Larry E. Brown II
Tarressa Carrell
Che J. Dacalio
Michael L. Fillmore
James A. Hoebing
Gerald W. Landry
Christopher Mahoney
Timothy J. Marienau
Israel J. Ruiz
Robert J. Whalen II
Danny Marquez, inbound
Christopher Claar, inbound

512th Rescue Squadron

Donald W. Ballowe
Alexander Cordero
Erin L. Thorson
Joey C. Bishop, inbound

550th Special Operations Squadron

Christine Brockinton
Kevin F. Valasek
Anthony T. Weiss
Matthew M. White

551st Special Operations Squadron

Antonio Garcia Jr.
Arthur W. Kennedy Jr.

373rd Training Squadron

Richard F.Herbert
Joseph M. Legato

342nd Training Squadron

Robert P. Backus
Jeremiah S. Coomer
Yandall D. Goodwin
Jeremy D. Miller
Blain A. Morgan
Mark K. Thomas

Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center

Christopher Hurlbert
Margriet M. Jullens
Catherine Washinski
Alan R. Conant

31st Test Evaluation Squadron

Daniel B. Pritchard

412th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

James Zapien Jr.

Space and Missile Systems Center

James A. Bonner
Gerald V. Butler



Photo by Lisa Gonzales

Kirtland AFB Fire Department personnel suit up in preparation of joining the fight to quench the blaze searing the Rio Grande bosque of Albuquerque. The bosque is an area of wildland that stretches north and south of the city and is a refuge for many varieties of birds, including the whooping crane on the federal endangers species list.

Kirtland AFB firefighters join bosque 'firefight'

When fire erupted in the Rio Grande bosque on two separate occasions the week before last, Kirtland AFB firefighters joined teams of local firemen fighting to contain and quench the blazes that threatened homes in the area. Kirtland AFB firemen worked cooperatively with firefighter statewide in the effort hampered at times by winds. The base fire department is able to assist the local department through a mutual aid agreement with the city.

According to Chief Dennis Lovato, Kirtland AFB Fire Department, fighting the type of fire like the one in the bosque last week can be one of the most difficult. Firefighters must be able to "transition from wildland to structural firefighters within seconds." Much of the base firefighters' work was done with hand tools, eliminating fuel for the fire by cutting the fire line, rather than with water.

"(The June 24 fire) wasn't that big but it was intense," said Peter "PJ" Giles, Kirtland AFB Fire Department safety officer. "It seemed like I saw a company from every agency in the state."

With the bosque fire, Giles noted the fire's growing size got into the trees, causing a "crown fire," one which he said can fall on firefighters' heads from the canopy of trees. Trees were exploding and popping, he added.

"It's hard (to see the bosque fire)," Giles said. "I've been here 11 years...it's tough to see the bosque in such devastation."

Fire officer Karl White of the base fire department, added that "being a fire officer, I was very proud of all the firefighters who worked together toward a more favorable outcome..." He noted that none of his personnel were injured and they were able to help reduce the loss of structures and personal property to the minimum.

Lovato echoed White's point, saying his personnel worked hard, long hours with little rest between fires, yet accomplished the effort with no one injured. He also noted that the 377th Air Base Wing supported the effort, filling every request from his personnel from the command post at the scene. The 377th Logistics Readiness Squadron's Vehicle Operations Element provided drivers and buses, transporting crews, and the 377th Services Squadron provided meals for fire crews at the scene.



Dr. L. Bruce Simpson

Directed Energy director promoted

Dr. L. Bruce Simpson was promoted today to Senior Executive Service rank. In civilian government service, this is equivalent to a brigadier general. At an Air Force ceremony, Simpson was awarded an appointment certificate, along with a pin and flag that denote his new rank. Simpson is the new director at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Directed Energy Directorate, a 600-person organization conducting research in high-energy lasers, high-power microwaves and other directed energies for DOD.

Smallpox vaccine side effects 'rare'

WASHINGTON (AFP)—Mass smallpox vaccinations can be conducted safely with "very low" rates of serious adverse effects, the DOD's senior medical official said June 25.

The military will continue with its vaccination program because the smallpox bioterror threat remains, said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"Although we are no longer vaccinating servicemembers at the rate we witnessed earlier in the program, we continue to vaccinate those who are serving or who soon will be serving in high-risk areas," he said. "Our experience demonstrates that on a large scale the smallpox vaccination program can be conducted safely."

There are risks associated with the smallpox vaccination, even though significant side effects are rare, and death is very rare, Winkenwerder said.

"Our experience is that it is possible to reduce those risks associated with the vaccine," he said.

According to information from the five and a half month military study, DOD officials administered 450,293 vaccinations, including more than 50,000 a week at the peak of the military program.

The study began Dec. 13 and ended May 28.

The study proved that the vaccine was administered without many adverse reactions, such as skin irritation and blister rashes or risks associated with it, said Army Col. John D. Grabenstein. He is the Military Vaccine Agency's deputy direc-

tor for clinical operations.

Grabenstein wrote a report on the vaccination study with Winkenwerder. In it, he said that adverse incidents were not as apparent as historical data would suggest.

"Itching at the vaccination site was reported by about 60 percent of those vaccinated," Grabenstein said. Also, cases of "blister rashes" were mild, and they were treated on an outpatient basis.

He also said 3 percent needed to take sick leave after being vaccinated. That leave lasted roughly a day and a half, he said.

Comprehensive medical staff training, education and careful screening and close monitoring following vaccination were identified as ways to keep risks to a minimum. Early intervention when adverse events occur was also identified, according to Winkenwerder.

There were some concerns identified in the study. Winkenwerder said acute myopericarditis—inflammation of the membrane covering the heart—occurred in a small number of servicemembers who received the vaccine: about 1 in 12,000, or 37, people.

Grabenstein refuted media accounts of the vaccine causing heart attacks in servicemembers.

"We have had several heart attacks among (those receiving) smallpox vaccines, but no more than we have had among a similar amount of unvaccinated people," he said. "So our conclusion is that heart attacks and smallpox vaccination are unrelated."